

# *Tidings of Hope: The Social Concerns Newsletter of the Diocese of Green Bay*

Volume 14, Issue 4  
Summer 2009

Greetings from the Social Concerns Office:

I was traveling to Madison with several parishioners in May for a lobby day on immigration rights. One of the passengers, who has served his entire career in church ministry and as a professional counselor, asked me, "What keeps you going?" Less than a week later, our Department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services held its annual planning day. While applying the appreciative inquiry method, we were asked to comment on some of the "successes" of the last year. Indeed, sometimes you need to step back and take the long look.

While answering these questions, I was reminded how blessed I was to serve aside so many different kinds of people: parishioners on parish social concerns committees who invite my suggestions on formation and programming ideas; local, regional, and national Catholic social activists who are really making a difference on issues like immigration, climate change, and affordable health care; idealistic organizers inside and outside of the faith community who are teaching people two and three times their age how to put their passion into action with intelligence and desire; or readers who remind me that columns and letters to the editor are read and appreciated.

I hearken back to the words of Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS. I have known of Sr. Campbell for several years; she is the Executive Director of NETWORK: Catholic Social Justice Lobby. Her column, "Ministering to the Minister" in the spring 2009 *Koinonia: a Newsletter for the Parish Social Ministry Section* has been particularly helpful to me these weeks. When asked to reflect on how to best care for the Catholic social action ministers during times of economic stress, she replied in part:

"....So far, I have come to learn that our crisis of individualism is not just about other people. It is about me also. I have become quite convinced that I can take care of 'my' staff and 'my' organization. What I am learning from the Gospel is that I am not called to do such a Herculean task alone. The Gospel leads me to know that we are called to deal with this crisis communally. It is only when the Apostles are together and Jesus is in their midst that he says to them, 'Fear not.' Isn't that what we hunger to hear these days?..."

So when we examine our lives in parish social ministry and Catholic social action, we must not forget to come back to the words and example of Sr. Campbell:

1. Are we praying enough?
2. Are we collaborating enough?

May God's love positively impact all that we do.

*Steve Herro, P. Praem*



## New Websites worth checking out



connects gardeners to food pantries

Whether you serve at a food pantry or grow vegetables or fruits, [ampleharvest.org](http://ampleharvest.org) is for you. The national directory connects pantries and gardeners in order to help meet the dietary needs of food pantry guests. [Ampleharvest.org](http://ampleharvest.org) gives food pantries the opportunity to be listed in a central directory so that gardeners can share their fresh produce and garden by garden, help diminish hunger in America.



### 350 .org and International Climate Day, Oct. 24

Last year, the world's leading climatologists published data showing that 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide was the maximum safe ceiling for this greenhouse gas in our atmosphere. A campaign called [350.org](http://350.org) is an effort to draw attention to this new fact about creation. On October 24, groups from throughout the world will be organizing activities to publicize this danger before the United Nations Climate Change Conference meets in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 7-18. See [www.350.org/faith](http://www.350.org/faith) for suggestions on how to integrate the campaign in your parish.

## Various JustFaith Ministries opportunities offered throughout the Diocese



Our diocese is quickly becoming a favorite of the national JustFaith Ministries office! Check out the options below:

☆ JustFaith Ministries has launched a new module, Engaging Spirituality. The module is intended for those interested in making a deeper connection between the Catholic spirituality and social action. Please see [justfaith.org/JF126.html](http://justfaith.org/JF126.html) for background information on Engaging Spirituality, including a list of upcoming facilitator training sessions. If interested in participating as early as this fall, or for fall 2010, please contact Dr. Kristina DeNeve, Evangelization and Spirituality Director, Diocese of Green Bay [kdeneve@gbdioc.org](mailto:kdeneve@gbdioc.org), 272-8304/1-877-500-3580.

- ☆ Patti Christensen, 920-235-7412, email [pchristensen@stjudeoshkosh.org](mailto:pchristensen@stjudeoshkosh.org), is organizing a JustFaith group for this fall for the Winnebago County area. Please contact Patti by August 1 if interested.
- ☆ Lauri Vandenboom, 715-258-3962, email [Vandenbo7@aol.com](mailto:Vandenbo7@aol.com), is organizing a JustFaith group for this fall in the Waupaca/Wautoma area. Please contact Lauri by August 1 if interested.
- ☆ Jackie Thiry, 920-435-5437, email [jthiry@peoplepc.com](mailto:jthiry@peoplepc.com), and Christine Whipp, 920-465-6835, email [cawhipp@yahoo.com](mailto:cawhipp@yahoo.com), are organizing a JustFaith group for this fall in Brown County. Please contact Jackie or Christine by August 1 if interested.
- ☆ St. Norbert Abbey is hosting the JustMatters eight session module, "Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey." Held on Wednesday nights from mid October to mid December, please confirm your intention to participate by contacting the Norbertine Center for Spirituality, 920-337-4315, by September 1.

## Diocese announces recipients of local Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Operation Rice Bowl grants

The Diocese provides local CCHD grants based on the Lenten Collection for the World's Poor and local Operation Rice Bowl grants derived from the Rice Bowl collection. CCHD grants are made available to organizations that promote community organizing and or economic development projects that are led by low income people. Operation Rice Bowl grants are available to organizations that serve the social needs of immigrants and refugees.

- ☆ ESTHER, a community organizing unit based in Winnebago and Outagamie Counties, received a \$6,300 CCHD grant to promote leadership development of Spanish speaking immigrants.
- ☆ The United Hmong and Asian American Community Center, Green Bay, received a \$3,000 Operation Rice Bowl grant to help fund its information referral service.
- ☆ The Immigration Task Force, Green Bay received a \$1,116 Operation Rice Bowl grant to fund its telephone response network to serve victims of work place raids.

- ☆ Door County Memorial Hospital, Sturgeon Bay, received a \$1,500 grant to help subsidize its free dental care to Spanish language immigrants.
- ☆ The Hispanic Resource Center, Sturgeon Bay, received a \$4,682 Operation Rice Bowl grant to help fund its social outreach programming to Spanish language immigrants in Door and Kewaunee Counties.
- ☆ LEAVEN, which provides small bridge grants for housing and utilities and information referral throughout the TriCounty area, received \$1,000 for services provided to Hmong and Spanish language patrons.

Thank you for your yearly contributions to the Collection for the World's Poor and Operation Rice Bowl



## Parish Social Ministry Network meeting schedule, 2009-10

Anyone interested in parish social ministry or Catholic social action is invited to participate in these network meetings. Mark your calendar now and bring a friend! **Note that the location of the Green Bay meeting has changed from the Diocese to St. Patrick Parish, Green Bay.** Question, agenda items, etc. may be addressed to Steve Herro, 272-8299/877-500-3580 x8299, email [sherro@gbdioc.org](mailto:sherro@gbdioc.org)

- Thursday, September 10, 6:30 - 8 pm, St Mary Margaret Parish, 439 Washington Ave, Neenah
- Monday, September 14, 6:30 - 8 pm, St Patrick Parish, 211 N Maple, Green Bay
- Monday, November 9, 6:30 - 8 pm, St Patrick Parish, 211 N Maple, Green Bay
- Thursday, November 12, 6:30 - 8 pm, St Mary Margaret Parish, 439 Washington Ave, Neenah
- Monday, February 8, 6:30 - 8 pm, St Patrick Parish, 211 N Maple, Green Bay
- Thursday, February 25, 6:30 - 8 pm, St Mary Margaret Parish, 439 Washington Ave, Neenah
- Monday, April 12, 6:30 - 8 pm, St Patrick Parish, 211 N Maple, Green Bay
- Thursday, April 29, 6:30 - 8 pm, St Mary Margaret Parish, 439 Washington Ave, Neenah

## Regional and statewide opportunities

### Brown County Diversity Circles to host "Do You Know Your Neighbor?" at Harmony Café, Green Bay, July 2009

Brown County Diversity Circles ([diversity.uwgb.edu](http://diversity.uwgb.edu)) will present its video and poster collection "Do You Know Your Neighbor?" at Harmony Cafe, 1660 W Mason St, Green Bay, during July 2009. The exhibit will open on July 1 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm and include the presentation of its video and unveiling of a series of 28 posters that demonstrate that most of us in Brown County are descended from immigrants. Admission is

free and refreshments will be served at this opening reception.

On July 15, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Brown County Diversity Circles will present a "Living Library," allowing guests to have 20 minute conversations with selected Brown County persons representing unique ethnicities, professions, races, religions, and other personal qualities; "Living Library" is free and open to the public. Come and celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of Brown County's cultural diversity in the month of July at Harmony Cafe. For more information, please contact Helen, Brown County Diversity Circles, 465-0653.

### Wisconsin Interfaith Climate & Energy Campaign to host "Greening our Faith Communities and Our Lives"

The WICEC ([www.wicec.org](http://www.wicec.org)) will host "Greening our Faith Communities and Our Lives" in Stevens Point, October 11-



12. Keynote speakers include Rev. Sally Bingham, founder of Interfaith Power and Light and the Regeneration Project, and Rev. Dr. David Rhoads, founder of the Chicago Green Seminary Initiative and Green Congregations. Workshops include global warming science and public policy update, reducing your congregation's carbon footprint, organizing local interfaith global warming movements, extending earth-oriented worship beyond Earth day, local food movements, and starting a green team in your congregation. For more information, call 608-222-7339 or email [info@wicec.org](mailto:info@wicec.org). Car pooling is being organized from the Green Bay area.

### Project Promise unleashes new initiative

Project Promise: A Fox Cities Poverty Coalition ([www.projectpromisefoxcities.org/](http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org/)) is hosting Faith to Face Poverty Week, October 9-15, 2009. Project Promise is a coalition of non-profit organizations, service providers, and individual community members with the goal of eliminating poverty in the Fox Cities. During Faith to Promise Poverty Week, it will host poverty simulations in order to help the non poor feel what it is like to be poor. The coalition has also provided worship

resources and suggested activities and events for your congregation during that week. For more information, including a project book, please contact Andrew Konkel, CAP Services, 920-968-6565, e-mail [akonkel@capmail.org](mailto:akonkel@capmail.org). Andrew will also be a guest speaker at our parish social ministry network meeting on Thursday, Sept. 10, 6:30 pm, St Margaret Mary, Neenah. Project Promise provides educational opportunities and direct action to help understand and defeat local poverty.



### Brown County's community read program One Book, One Community launches *Three Cups of Tea*

One Book, One Community ([www.browncountyreads.org](http://www.browncountyreads.org)) has selected *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time* for its community read for the 2009-10 school year. As our country seeks to become more learned of Central Asia and explore nonviolent responses in that area, *Three Cups of Tea* is a timely read for peace seekers. The Website will be updated soon to promote book discussions, art exhibits, and speakers for this year's theme.

## U.S. and Wisconsin Bishops promote advocacy on climate change, immigration, and opposition to contraceptive mandates

President Obama has pledged to work with the U.S. Congress to advance a comprehensive immigration bill in 2009. A June 25 summit was intended to lay out the necessary strategy for this 2009. The U.S. Bishops support a single comprehensive immigration reform bill that would do the following:

- ☆ Provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States,
- ☆ Speed the process for uniting immigrant families if one member is working with documentation in the United States,
- ☆ Increase the number of temporary visas for understaffed industries, such as agriculture,
- ☆ Address economic conditions in foreign countries which are forcing people to emigrate.

To stay abreast of the latest in immigration, see Justice for Immigrants ([www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)). As this legislation moves through Congress, be sure and communicate the need for a just immigration policy to your U.S. Senators and Congressman. Determine their contact information by going to "Who are My Legislators?", [www.legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx) or call the Congressional switchboard (1-866-864-6483).

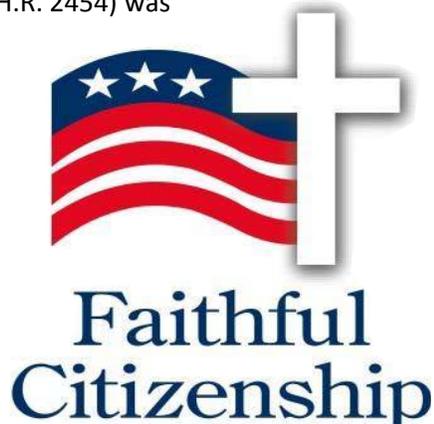
Our U.S. Bishops are also committed to federal energy legislation that will cut the emission rate of greenhouse gases and provide subsidy to low income households and countries in the developing world which are least able to adapt to increased clean energy prices. The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454) was

approved by the House of Representatives on June 26. The Bishops have noted that the bill does not provide enough funding for international adaptation by countries in the developing world. To stay abreast of this, see Catholics and Climate Change, [www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/](http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/) and remember to use "Who are My Legislators?" or the Capitol switchboard in order to express your positions to members of the U.S. Congress.

The Wisconsin legislature and Gov. Doyle completed the 2009-11 budget by July 1, 2009. The budget does not include one pro immigrant measure favored by the Wisconsin Bishops, driving cards that would legalize driving for undocumented immigrants, but does include in-state tuition in Wisconsin public colleges and universities for undocumented Wisconsin high school graduates (or those who have received their GED).

Furthermore, the budget includes one mandate that any Wisconsin pharmacy would have to dispense contraceptives on demand and that any employer provided health insurance plan would have to provide access to contraceptive coverage for employees. The Wisconsin Bishops oppose these measures because they further legitimize artificial means of birth control and tear down the right of a faith based pharmacy and employer to restrict contraceptive coverage, though it might be against its own moral teaching.

For further information on these state matters, please see the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, [www.wisconsinatholic.org](http://www.wisconsinatholic.org).



# Reflections from an immigration policy odyssey

Written by Br. Steve Herro  
Photos by Carlos Hernandez

After several trips to Madison, Milwaukee, and Appleton and dozens of phone calls, faxes, and letters, the attempt to insure that driving cards and instate tuition for immigrants in Wisconsin be included in the 2009-11 budget came to a close when the legislature approved the budget with instate tuition but without driving cards on June 26. The four month outreach inspired the listing of these memories:



1. Attending the March 18 lobby day and listening to Sr. Pat Flanigan, a no-nonsense/ Dorothy Day type religious sister in our diocese who provides Hispanic outreach in the Wautoma area, articulate why we need drivers licenses and instate tuition at the legislative hearing; later, hearing her “tell her story” to a young immigrant rights advocate as they walked through the Capitol. Sr. Pat is what public witness in the Church is all about.
2. A day or two after returning to De Pere after the March 18 lobby day, I received a phone call from a farming woman in West Bend who did not know me from Adam, but got my name and phone number somehow and wanted to discover how to help her single Latino farm worker regularize in order to help him renew his license. As we talked, I explained that the better bet would be to pass the driving card provision. She went into great detail how and why she hired him, what a great employee, husband and father he was.
3. Testifying at the public hearing on the budget in Appleton on April 1, and sharing my 50+ signatures of support with the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). Though I heard about 100 testimonials, mine was the only one that garnered a question from a member of the JFC. My own Assembly Representative Phil Montgomery asked me St. Norbert College’s position on instate tuition; I answered “It is not a relevant question, Mr. Representative; St. Norbert is a private college.”
4. Attending the May 27 Lobby Day; at the same time, helping to introduce two of our parishioners (a mother and daughter from Majority Leader Nelson’s district) to their first every experience in legislative lobbying.
5. Interviewing several eighth graders for a high school scholarship on May 29; one applicant was a Latina. Explaining to the other interviewers that we must not only consider which applicant interviewed best, but must consider which applicant would be impacted the greatest by the scholarship. After advocating for immigrants and educational opportunities at the Capitol, on the editorial page, etc., I had a real experience to advocate on a scholarship decision.
6. Multitasking from June 3-5; reading and sending email to coalition members while serving as the recording secretary for my religious community annual business meeting. Thank God for Windows, laptops, and wireless environments.
7. Connecting my friend Fr. Andy Cribben to the June 22 Madison press conference, office visits, and rally AND hearing from several attendees later how impressive Andy was at the press conference.
8. Rushing out the door for a meeting in Appleton on June 24, but for some reason being inspired to look at the fax machine before leaving the building. Finding the long sought faxes from the sheriff of Sturgeon Bay in support of the drivers card and faxing out copies of them to key legislative leaders for the next 30 minutes.

One of the blessings of the entire process has been to reconnect with a number of advocates AND forge new partnerships. I was personally moved by being able to share so many of the trips to Milwaukee, Madison, and home based advocacy with some additional members of my religious community and parishes that I serve. In this regard, I felt that the movement successfully brought new people to the fold.



Onward!

## News from the Diocese impacts social concerns

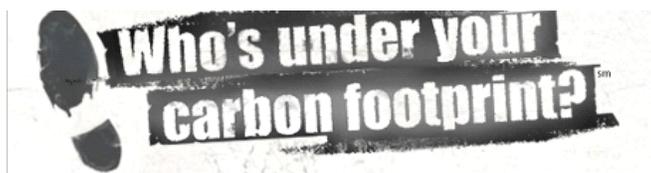
### Bishop Ricken endorses Catholic Climate Covenant

Bishop David L. Ricken has endorsed the “Catholic Climate Covenant: St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor.” The Covenant was created by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, a membership organization that includes the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Conference of Major Superiors of Men, and Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

The covenant is rooted in the belief that believers in Jesus Christ have a moral obligation to care for both creation and the poor. This complements the Diocese’s mission, core values and vision, which identify the importance of stewardship – the acknowledgement that all that we have is a gift from God; we are merely stewards.

According to Brother Steve Herro, Social Concerns Director for the Diocese of Green Bay, “The primary thrust of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is to help change minds, hearts, and practices so that we lower our carbon footprint. When carbon emitters in the First World lower their carbon footprint, the poor in the developing world and the poor on our own coasts are less likely to face the effects of extreme climate change. In this regard, the Coalition stands on two very important premises of Catholic social teaching: care for God’s creation and an option for the poor.”

To help parishes brainstorm on how to connect their faith, climate change, and “go green,” the Diocese distributed an information packet titled, “Blessed are You, Lord God of all Creation,” to all 159 parishes. It is available at [sites.google.com/site/stewcreationpacket](https://sites.google.com/site/stewcreationpacket). The Catholic Climate Covenant is available at [catholicclimatecovenant.org/](http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/). To learn more about Coalition, visit [www.catholicsandclimatechange.org](http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org).



### Diocese unveils new Website

The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay has launched a new Website; the address remains [www.gbdioc.org](http://www.gbdioc.org). Take a moment to surf around. You will find the Stewardship and Pastoral Services page at [www.gbdioc.org/whorewe/diocesan-departments/25-diocesan-departments/16-stewardship-and-pastoral-services.html](http://www.gbdioc.org/whorewe/diocesan-departments/25-diocesan-departments/16-stewardship-and-pastoral-services.html); a long address! It might be easier to go to [www.gbdioc.org](http://www.gbdioc.org), click “Who We Are,” “Diocesan Departments,” and “Stewardship and Pastoral Services.” You will be led to a template to send mail to the department or click on “If you are a parish leader or volunteer looking for resources and tools to develop a more vibrant parish, click here” and a list of all offices, including social concerns, will appear. You will see sub

pages on Catholic social teaching, Catholic Campaign for Human Development (including JustFaith Ministries), Parish Social Ministry, Catholic Social Action, and Legislative Advocacy. There is also a link to our Parish Social Ministry Google site, [sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm](https://sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm). We realize that the general surfer will probably be more interested in the material on the diocesan Web page, but those serving more specifically in parish social ministry will probably prefer the depth of the [sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm](https://sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm).

**Catholic Diocese  
of Green Bay**

P.O. Box 23825  
Green Bay, WI 54305-3825

Social Concerns Newsletter

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GREEN BAY,  
WI  
PERMIT #104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Tidings of Hope is produced three times a  
year by the Social Concerns Ministry of the  
Diocese of Green Bay. Questions or  
written contributions may be submitted to  
Steve Herro, O. Praem., Social Concerns  
Director, [sherro@gbdioc.org](mailto:sherro@gbdioc.org) or (920) 272-  
8299 or 877-500-3580 x 8299 from  
area code 920 8 715

